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**STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MEDIA RELEASE**

## **DPS AWARDED THREE ENERGY GRANTS BY USDOE**

Three State of Vermont proposals supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy have been selected for grant awards totalling \$416,788 by the U.S. Department of Energy, Public Service Commissioner David O'Brien announced this week. The selected proposals will fund projects to make state buildings more energy efficient, update building energy codes and standards, and build the Vermont market for "biodeisel" fuel.

"We were gratified not only to receive this funding, but also to learn that the Department's proposals ranked first, second and sixth in national competition for these federal grants. This accomplishment suggests that Vermont's private and public sectors continue as leaders in renewable energy and energy efficiency," Commissioner O'Brien said. "The grants will make a significant contribution to Vermont's continuing commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy."

The project focused on state buildings, which was selected for a \$127,000 award by the federal "Rebuild America" program, will support efforts by the Department of Buildings and General Services to reduce energy bills by making state facilities more energy efficient. This initiative, named the Vermont State Buildings Energy Efficiency Partnership, complements Governor Jim Douglas' goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A second proposal selected for an award of \$215,000 will help Vermont and New Hampshire update energy codes and standards for residential and commercial buildings. Using resources from the U.S. Department of Energy's building codes program, the states will work to incorporate national-level codes into local design and building practices. Information and education efforts will also target designers, building contractors and suppliers to include "beyond-code" features in their buildings. Studies suggest that high performance buildings can reduce utility bills by 20-40 percent with little added expense.

Building a Vermont market for cleaner-burning "biodiesel" fuel is the focus of a \$75,000 award from the Department of Energy. This project will produce public-private partnerships to create a local market for biodiesel, a blend of conventional diesel fuel and vegetable oils. The

fuel can be used for space heating and transportation.

The US DOE plans to award \$16,337,695 for 162 energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in 43 states and the District of Columbia for the upcoming federal fiscal year.